

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A containment assembly comprising:

a powder handling booth of sufficient size to admit an operator, said powder handling booth having a rear wall, a floor and an upper surface; and

a barrier means at least a first part of which is composed of flexible material, said barrier means being positioned in the powder handling booth and spaced apart from the rear wall to define a processing zone between the barrier means and the rear wall, wherein the first part of the barrier means is adapted or adaptable to permit the operator in the powder handling booth outside the processing zone to operate inside the processing zone.

2. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein more than the first part of the barrier means is composed of flexible material.

3. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein substantially the whole of the barrier means is composed of flexible material.

4. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is a screen barrier.

5. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the screen barrier is a curtain-type screen barrier.

6. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is an enclosure barrier.

7. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the enclosure barrier consists essentially of a front sheet, a first side sheet and optionally a second side sheet which when positioned in the powder handling booth spaced

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apart from the rear wall encloses the processing zone.

8. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein substantially the whole of the front sheet is composed of flexible material.

9. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein substantially the whole of the first side sheet is composed of flexible material.

10. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least the front sheet is adapted or adaptable to permit the operator in the powder handling booth outside the processing zone to operate inside the processing zone.

11. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means extends at least between the upper surface and the floor of the powder handling booth.

12. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the barrier means has a lower edge at or near to which the barrier means is untethered and extends into an excess of flexible material.

13. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is bound within a rigid framework to define a self-contained unit.

14. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first part of the barrier means comprises at least one flexible portion in the shape of a glove or at least one flexible portion capable of being deformed into the shape of a glove.

15. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 14,

wherein the at least one flexible portion in the shape of a glove or capable of being deformed into the shape of a glove comprises a flexible sleeve terminating in a gloved end.

16. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrier means is at least partially transparent.

17. A containment assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least partially transparent flexible barrier means comprises a transparent window at or near to a typical operator's eye height.

18. A containment assembly as claimed claim 1, wherein the containment assembly is a down flow containment assembly further comprising means for inducing air flow downwardly in the powder handling booth, wherein the rear wall has a lower end and an upper end and is adapted at or near the lower end to transmit externally an air flow and adapted at or near to the upper end to transmit internally the air flow.

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